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INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY China

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1. The Communists in Shantung can concentrate a force superior to any single Nationalist garrison in this province. However, their supply and transport problems at present would probably prevent their delivering the sustained assault necessary to reduce either Tsinan or Tsingtao. The Communists' main strength in Shantung is concentrated along the Tsinpu railroad south of the Tsinan pocket, with its main movement toward the south. The apparent intention of the Communists is to create a diversion which will prevent the Hsuehou garrison from reinforcing the Hsuehou-Kaifeng sector, where the major Communist offensive is taking place.
2. There are no large Communist concentrations near Tsingtao now. Tsingtao has a Nationalist garrison of two understrength divisions in addition to 30,000 conscripts in training, for whom there are no arms available. The Communists could concentrate a superior force for attack within thirty days, but it is believed by source that such a move is unlikely, due to their logistic problems and their uncertainty regarding the possible participation of the American forces in the defense of Tsingtao. However, if they are willing to take the losses, the Communists definitely are capable of reducing Tsingtao by assault.

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